

Oosik

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 19 Mar 1997

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Wesley Parsons (7065) — 19 Mar 1997, 16:32

FWIW, yesterday I finally found scleroderma the puffball. Yep.

On the zoological front I'm still looking for Oosik and Mattak, though. And Mamelta, presumably botanical, is still a puzzler.

vizcacha,<<

You may already know this, but "Oosik" is described by people who are fans of walruses as an Inuit word for the penis bone of a walrus. I quote:

"For a popular update on the impact of anthropogenic estrogenic chemicals on marine and terrestrial animals have a look at "Hormone Hell" by Catherine Dold, Discover, September 1996, pg 53. A broad class of chemicals that includes the polychloro-dioxins are produced by incineration of chlorinated organic polymers like polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or "Saran" (plastic food wrap). These chemicals bind estrogen (female hormone) receptors and decrease fertility for both males and females. Ms. Dold recounts the evidence regarding the decrease in size of Columbia River otter bacalums, penis bones. The walrus penis bone is called an oosik by Inuits. It might be informative about estrogenic chemical contamination of the Bering Sea to evaluate the time progression in the size of oosiks. There are 72 fresh ones at Cape Peirce right now just waiting to be measured. The oosik from the old guy who died at the end of July from an abscessed tooth was 22" long."

Perhaps this means Oosik was from the East or West Pole <g>.

See <http://www.faraday.chem.fsu.edu/walrus/walrus3.html>

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